Import of Wheat

609. KUMARI ALIA :
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI M.S. GURUPADA-SWAMY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to import wheat ;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of wheat to be imported;

(c) the reason for import of wheat inspite of bumper crop and comfortable buffer stock position;

(d) the details of month-wise supply and off-take of wheat from PDS;

(e) the implications on the food subsidy;

(f) whether it is a fact that wheat is being exported ; and

(g) if so, the quantity and rate thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) The Government have recently deicided to import one million tonnes of wheat with a view to increase its availability and to contain market prices. Value of the wheat to be imported will be known after finalisation of contracts.

(d) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(e) The extent of subsidy involved in the issue of imported wheat through the Public Distribution System will depend on the landed cost of wheat.

(f) and (g) As a part of emergency measures to generate foreign exchange earnings to cope with the critical balance of payments situation, the Government decided to export wheat. During 1991-92, 6-52 lakh tonnes of wheat have been exported by S.T.C./M.M.T.C. upto 15 February, 1992 on commercial basis at prices ranging from US $ 92 to US $ 109 per MT FOB.

Statement

Allotment and off-take of wheat for the public distribution system from the central pool during January to December, 1991

(In lakh tonnes)

Month	Allotment	Off-Take
January	8.48	7.92
February	9.57	8.07
March	9.99	8.44
April	10.49	6.98
May	10.68	6.80
June	7.74	6.26
July	7.86	7.63
August	8.00	7.18
September	8.10	7.68
October	8.65	7.83
November	8.68	7.01
December	7.83	7.27
	106.07	89.07